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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7132 INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 7298 RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0129 RUDKFMQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0030 RUDKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0041

RUESUZ/AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE 0093 RUESUA/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 1872

RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 0336

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TAGS: SHUM. BR. UY SUBJ: KIDNÁPPING OF URUGUAYAN POLITICAL REFUGEES IN BRAZIL

MONTEVIDEO 4179

12/4/78

REF: MONTEVIDEO 4144

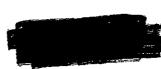
1. BRAZILIAN JOURNALIST LUIZ CUNHA, WHO STUMBLED ON APPARENT KIDNAPPING IN PORTO ALEGRE OF URUGUAYAN POLITICAL REFUGEES UNIVERSINDO RODRIGUEZ AND LILIANA DE CASARIEGO, IS CURRENTLY FOLLOWING UP STORY IN MONTEVIDEO. IN DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 30 WITH PAO AND POLOFF, CUNHA CONFIRMED ALL MAJOR DETAILS OF EXPERIENCES ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN BRAZILIAN MEDIA AND SUB-SEQUENTLY REPORTED HERE (REFTEL. HE HAS NO DOUBT URUGUAYANS" CAPTORS (AND HIS OWN, BRIEFLY) WERE BRAZILIAN AND STRONGLY SUSPECTS THEY WERE FROM LOCAL SECURITY FORCES.

2. THESE IMPRESSIONS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY HIS INTERVIEW HERE WITH CAMILO CASARIEGO, EIGHT-YEAR OLD SON OF LILIANA. URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES MAINTAIN THE BOY AND HIS YOUNGER SISTER, WHO HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO CUSTODY OF GRANDPARENTS, WERE WITH THEIR MOTHER AND HER ASSOCIATE WHEN THE PAIR WERE SUPPOS-EDLY APPREHENDED AFTER HAVING VOLUNTARILY ENTERED URUGUAY. BOY'S STORY, HOWEVER, DIFFERS MARKEDLY. HE RECALLS (WITH CONSIDERABLE CERTAINTY) THAT PORTO ALEGRE APARTMENT IN WHICH THEY WERE LIVING WAS INVADED ON NOVEMBER 12 BY FIVE OR SIX ARMED MEN DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, INCLUDING TWO "WHO SPOKE SPANISH LIKE WE DO". CHILDREN WERE IMMEDIATELY SEPARATED FROM THEIR PARENTS AND TAKEN TO A LOCATION WHOSE DESCRIPTION, ACCORDING TO CUNHA, IS "UNMISTAKABLY" THAT OF LOCAL HEADQUARTERS OF BRAZILIAN MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE. CHILDREN WERE THEN DRIVEN BY CAR TO URUGUAY, WHERE THEY WERE HELD FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS UNTIL BEING TURNED OVER TO THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

3. COINCIDENTALLY, BRAZILIAN FONMIN AZEVEDO WILL BE HERE NEXT WEEK FOR A MEETING OF RIVER PLATE BASIN FOREIGN MINISTERS. CUNHA EXPECTS ISSUE TO BE RAISED BY BRAZILIAN PRESS (INCLUDING HIMSELF) WHO WILL BE COVERING EVENT.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, THROUGH EFFORTS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, CASE HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN EUROPE. DUTCH AMBASSADOR INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT IT HAS BEEN RAISED FORMALLY IN DUTCH PARLIAMENT.

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